

spoil to their enemies. 2 Kings xxiv. 14. They are for a prey and none delivereth. Isaiah xlii. 22.

*The hand or power that should effect their desolation.* The gathering of them under his wings, doubtless suggested their danger from the Roman power, the representation of which was an *eagle*; and which continued to the times of Constantine, when it was exchanged by him for the sign of the cross—the *symbol of safety and conquest*.

When therefore the Roman legions were advancing for hostile operations, their ensigns on which were engraven or painted golden eagles, while floating and buoyant in the air, could not fail to suggest the idea of an eagle hovering in the atmosphere, and waiting to fall upon its prey.

The same thought is inculcated in Matt. xxiv. 28. The Jews were *judicially* and *morally* dead; their system of policy was exanimate and hastening to decomposition, while their moral feeling was enervated, perverted, and destroyed. And the sense is, wherever there are Jews who have dealt unfaithfully with God, rejected his authority, and crucified his Son, there should the destroying Romans be gathered together. And probably there was not a *carious* Jew but met with a *furious* foe. *Every carcass had its eagle*, so exactly was the prophecy of their generous prophet fulfilled in Num. xxxii. 23. “*Be sure your sin will find you out.*”

*The feeble and unsuccessful resistance which they should make.* They could no more resist the overwhelming force of the Romans, than a distracted and unprotected brood of chickens could resist the talloned eagle or elude the vulture’s eye. It is true their city was well fortified both by nature and art; and well supplied with provision, insomuch that Josephus asserts they could never have been taken, had they not have prepared the way by imprudent measures. But when God leaves a people, counsellors are led away spoiled, and judges become fools. Job xii. 17. The line of confusion and the stones of emptiness are stretched over the city. Isaiah xxxiv. 11. So that in drinking of the cup of wrath, they are moved and mad. Jer. xxv.